



AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES

WORK SESSION MEETING  
TUESDAY AUGUST 14, 2012

The City Council of Austin, Texas convened in a Work Session Meeting on Tuesday, August 14, 2012, City Hall at 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas.

Mayor Leffingwell called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Council Member Spelman was absent.

Mayor Leffingwell recessed the Council Meeting to go into Executive Session at 9:05 a.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The City Council went into Executive Session, pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, to receive advice from Legal Counsel, to discuss matters of land acquisition, litigation, and personnel matters as specifically listed on this agenda and to receive advice from Legal Counsel regarding any other item on this agenda.

- A.1 Discuss legal issues relating to the November 6, 2012 election (Private consultation with legal counsel pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Government Code).

Executive Session ended and Mayor Leffingwell called the Council Meeting back to order at 10:17 a.m.

**COUNCIL ITEMS OF INTEREST**

- B.2 Approve an ordinance placing a charter amendment on the November 2012 ballot to authorize the city council to create an independent board to oversee city owned utilities (Public comment is allowed).  
**This item was withdrawn from the agenda without objection.**
- B.3 Approve an ordinance placing a charter amendment on the November 2012 ballot to provide conditions under which the city council may sell or lease any substantial part of the facilities of a municipal utility (Public comment is allowed).  
**The motion to withdraw this item was approved on Council Member Cole's motion, Council Member Morrison's second on a 5-1 vote. Mayor Leffingwell voted nay. Council Member Spelman was absent.**
- B.4 Approve an ordinance amending the order calling the November 6, 2012 Special Election to provide for general obligation bond propositions, and declaring an emergency (Public comment is allowed).  
**There was a motion that was made by Council Member Martinez and seconded by Council Member Riley to approve the first reading of the ordinance for a \$385 million bond package as proposed by staff with the following amendments. The amendments were to reduce projects as**

follows: the APD Northwest Substation by \$9,933,000; PWD Harold Court Facility by \$5,048,000, PARD Recreation Facilities, \$2 million, IH-35 improvements by \$3,700,000, the bicycle, urban trail and grant match program by \$2 million and the citywide bikeways by \$1.5 million. To increase projects as follows: Austin Studios Expansion by \$5,481,000, Mexic-Arte Museum by \$5 million, Violet Crown Trail by \$1 million, PARD Barton Springs Bathhouse by \$2 million, Neighborhood Partnering Program by \$700,000, East 51<sup>st</sup> Street Vision Plan by \$3.5 million, Homeless Woman and Children Shelter by \$2.85 million, and \$150,000 for the ADA accessible fishing pier. Based on the City Manager's memo, add \$1 million for the Violet Crown Trail and \$4.5 million for land acquisition and design for the fire station on 360. It also includes an amendment to the fourth line of Proposition 14 to add the words "farm land" after the words "natural areas" if there is no legal prohibition.

There was a substitute motion to approve the first reading of the ordinance starting with the \$400 million task force recommendations with a goal to reduce to \$385 million through the following amendments. This motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cole and seconded by Council Member Morrison. The increases were: the 51<sup>st</sup> Street Plan improvement by \$1 million, Women and Children's Shelter by \$2 million; and the Barton Springs pool master plan and bathhouse by \$1 million. The proposed reductions were: to the NW APD substation by \$6,900,000, the park patrol facility by \$1,700,000 and the Emmet Shelton Bridge on Redbud Trail by \$2 million. The proposed increases were to the Austin Studios project by \$2 million and for the Dougherty Arts Center to add \$2 million.

There was a motion from Council Member Tovo to reduce IH35 improvements down to \$15 million. This died for lack of a second.

The motion to add the ADA accessible fishing pier at \$150,000 was approved on Council Member Tovo's motion, Council Member Morrison's second on a 6-0 vote. Council Member Spelman was absent.

There was a friendly amendment from Council Member Tovo to add \$1 million to the PARD south district maintenance facility. This was accepted by the maker of the motion and Council Member Morrison who seconded the motion.

There was a friendly amendment from Council Member Tovo to reduce \$1 million for the Austin to Manor Trail. That was accepted by the maker of the motion and Council Member Morrison who seconded the motion.

There was a friendly amendment from Council Member Tovo to add \$3.2 million for affordable housing. This was accepted by the maker of the motion and Council Member Morrison who seconded the motion.

There was a friendly amendment from Council Member Tovo to remove the Harold Court facility at \$11,077,000. This was accepted by the maker of the motion and Council Member Morrison who seconded the motion.

There was a friendly amendment from Council Member Morrison to reduce \$2 million from the bicycle, urban trail and grant match program and \$1.5 million from the citywide bikeways. This was accepted by the maker of the motion.

There was an amendment from Mayor Pro Tem Cole to reduce minor bridges, culverts and structures by \$1.7 million. This was not accepted by Council Member Morrison.

The substitute motion from Mayor Pro Tem Cole to approve the first reading of the ordinance with all the amendments listed above failed on a 3-3 vote. Those voting aye were: Mayor Pro Tem Cole and Council Members Morrison and Tovo. Those voting nay were: Mayor Leffingwell and Council Members Martinez and Riley. Council Member Spelman was absent.

The main motion from Council Member Martinez to approve the first reading of the ordinance with all the amendments listed above failed on a 3-3 vote. Those voting aye were: Mayor Leffingwell and Council Members Martinez and Riley. Those voting nay were: Mayor Pro Tem Cole and Council Members Morrison and Tovo. Council Member Spelman was absent.

- B.1 Approve an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 20120802-013, calling the November 2012 special election to be held on November 6, 2012, providing for the conduct of the election and authorizing the City Clerk to enter into joint election agreements with other local political subdivisions as may be necessary for the orderly conduct of the election, setting the ballot order for the propositions to be presented to the voters, finalizing the wording of the propositions, and declaring an emergency. (Public comment is allowed)

**Ordinance No. 20120814-B001 was approved on Mayor Pro Tem Cole's motion, Council Member Riley's second on a 6-0 vote. Council Member Spelman was absent.**

- B.5 Discussion of November 2012 election matters and potential direction to staff.  
**This item was withdrawn without objection.**

**Mayor Leffingwell adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m. without objection.**

**The minutes were approved on this the 23rd day of August, 2012 on Mayor Pro Tem Cole's motion, Council Member Martinez' second on a 6-0 vote. Council Member Spelman was absent.**